

866 129

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An electrode pad for a Group III nitride compound semiconductor having p-type conduction includes a triple layer structure having first, second, and third metal layers, formed on an electrode layer. A protection film with a window exposing a central portion of the third metal layer is formed by etching on the third metal layer and covers the sides of the first, second, and third metal layers. The second metal layer is made of gold (Au). The first metal layer is made of an element which has ionization potential lower than gold (Au). The third metal is made of an element which has adhesiveness to the protection film stronger than that of gold (Au). Consequently, this structure of the electrode pad improves the adhesive strength between the protection layer and the third metal layer and prevents the etching of the sides of the protection film. Furthermore, the contact resistance between the semiconductor and the electrode pad is lowered and, thus, ohmic characteristic of the electrode pad is improved.